

“A River Created by Many Streams”

Washington Community Fellowship

October 3, 2010

Anabaptist Review:

Key figures: Conrad Grebel (Zurich) Menno Simons (Holland), Michael Sattler, Felix Manz

Geographic centers: Switzerland and Holland

Readings: Harold Bender, “The Anabaptist Vision” and Stuart Murray “The Naked Anabaptist,” John Howard Yoder, “Politics of Jesus,” and 1995 “Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective”

Key Points: Emphasis on Free Church vs. State Church, non-violence (peacemaking), biblical interpretation, service, community as witness, and discipleship

Contributions to the River: Social Justice, some streams of Evangelicalism

The Holy Catholic Church/Roman Catholicism: The First Thousand Years

The Apostles and character of the first 300 years

Early leaders: Clement of Rome, Ignatius, Polycarp, Justin Martyr (liturgy & Eucharist in A.D. 150)

Contrast: Tertullian (A.D.150-230) wrote, “There is no congruity between the sign of Christ and the sign of the devil, God and Ceaser). Council of Arles ruled in 319 that military service was ok.

Church Doctors of the East: Athenasius (Nicene Creed), Gregory , Basil the Great, John Chrystostrom, (Oympus, Macrina), Eusebius

Church Doctors of the West: Ambrose, Jerome (Paula), Augustine, Gregory the Great

New Testament canonized by A.D. 400, Celibacy also begins to be generally held, especially for Bishops

451: Council of Chalcedon – Christ’s two natures

529: Benedictine orders begin – Poverty, chastity, discipline, obedience (Benedict of Nursa)

589: Nicene “Error,” 717-843: Iconoclastic controversy, East and West finally splits in 1054

988: Conversion of Rus

1054: Church of East and West formally split, East believes that Peter was first Pope.

Both Roman and Eastern contributions to the River: Sacramental/Incarnation, Contemplative

Note that there are clear streams of Social Justice and Charismatic thinking in the Roman Church